



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

WV
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/533,178	11/14/2005	Egil Pedersen	17114/006001	7157
22511	7590	09/26/2007	EXAMINER	
OSHA LIANG L.L.P. 1221 MCKINNEY STREET SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010			HEWITT, JAMES M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/26/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docket@oshaliang.com
gourrier@oshaliang.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/533,178	PEDERSEN, EGIL
	Examiner	Art Unit
	James M. Hewitt	3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/9/07 & 7/13/07.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/9/07</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 4/9/07 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. Document "BA**" has not been considered.

Oath/Declaration

The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

In the referenced title of the invention, the term "TONGUES" has been misspelled "TONQUES".

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The substitute specification filed 4/9/07 is not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b)(3) and 1.125(b). Accordingly it has not been entered.

The amendment to the title is not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b)(1) and 1.121(b)(2).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, Applicant claims a coupling part comprising a male part that is to be inserted into a female part. Applicant is not positively claiming the female part. The female part is only functionally claimed. Accordingly, the phrase "the locking tongues comprise free ends pointing in a opposite direction of insertion of the male part into the female part" makes the claim unclear because one would not know whether the claimed subject matter was met unless and until it was used with the unclaimed element.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson et al (US 4,735,235).

With respect to claim 1, Anderson et al discloses a coupling part having an integral male part (12), wherein the integral male part has a stepping (e.g. between two given tabs 22) and locking tongues (bent-over tabs 22), the locking tongues have free ends and all the locking tongues project slanting outwardly or have hooks projecting outwardly. Refer to FIGS. 12-16.

With respect to claim 2, wherein the locking tongues are integral to an end portion of the male part, the locking tongues comprise a first pair and a second pair of locking tongues (two given pairs), the end portion is connected to a remainder of the male part though two planar bridge portions (on each axial side of rib 18 in FIG. 13, for example) which are parallel to an inner surface of the first pair of locking tongues, the first pair of locking tongues are situated a radial distance outwardly from each bridge (see FIGS. 12 & 13), and the second pair of locking tongues (22) are situated between the first pair of locking tongues along a circumferential direction.

With respect to claim 3, wherein all the locking tongues are situated at a free end portion of the male part, wherein the locking tongues are configured to be compressed by a sleeve tool applied onto the end portion.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/9/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues "In contrast to the claimed invention, the bendable tabs 22 of Anderson are not configured to engage with at least one annular groove of the female

Art Unit: 3679

part, because there is nothing on the bendable tabs 22 that could engage with an annular groove. Instead, the tabs are simply bent over the panel 56. Further, the tabs cannot be considered locking tongues, because the tabs are simply bent over the panel 56, and axial forces could easily unbend the tabs. Thus, the tabs 22 are never locked into position. In fact, none of the tabs ever go to a locking position, and must be manually bent over the panel 56." Examiner disagrees. As shown in FIGS. 12 & 13 in Anderson discloses bendable tabs 22. These tabs are considered to be configured to and capable of engaging an annular groove in a given female member. They are considered locking tongues insofar as they exhibit a locking function and position as depicted in FIGS. 13, 15 and 16.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

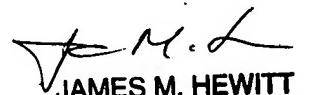
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMH
9/18/07


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER